

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

MEETING MINUTES

June 22, 2005

7:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

Patricia E. Cornish
Holly Fechner
Jodi Finkelstein
Jodi Grant
Carol Lynn Green
Deborah Horan
Shirley L. Johnson
Regina Oldak
Tedi Osias
Shelia Parker
Gary P. Smith

STAFF

Paula Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

GUEST

Barbara Heyman, Maryland CFW

ABSENT

Resa Levy
Yun Jung Yang

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Cornish

President Cornish called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. A revised agenda for the meeting was distributed to commissioners with the changes noted in red.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Green, duly seconded by Commissioner Johnson and unanimously passed, the revised Agenda was approved.

Commissioner Green noted a typo in paragraph 2 on page 7; the word "contribution" should be plural. Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnson, duly seconded by Commissioner Oldak, the Minutes of May 25, 2005 were adopted as amended.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

A. Follow-up on Budget Process

Commissioner Osias said that during the Commission for Women's budget worksession and the subsequent budget review before the full County Council, Councilmember George Leventhal expressed a desire to learn more about the work of CFW and the Counseling and Career Center (CCC).

Commissioners Osias and Oldak had an opportunity to speak to Councilman Leventhal and his Chief of Staff Valerie Ervin after the budget was approved. Commissioners suggested that a delegation of CFW members and staff informally meet with Mr. Leventhal to brief him on CFW and CCC projects.

Commissioners Osias, Oldak and Horan and President Cornish will attend the meeting with Councilman Leventhal that has been scheduled for July 6. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Program Manager Elma Rambo will also attend. Commissioners and Ms. Vaughan-Prather expressed their appreciation to Ms. Osias for her commitment and follow-thru on this matter. **(Staff's Note: This meeting has been rescheduled for July 21 at 11:00 a.m.)**

B. August Planning Meeting

The CFW Annual Planning Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 at 6:00 pm in the conference room. After polling each commissioner and the newly appointed commissioners, the date of August 24 was determined to be the best time to hold this meeting. Commissioner Osias will not be able to attend on the 24th. The alternate date of August 31 was not selected because three commissioners would have been unable to attend.

Commissioners are encouraged to think about projects to present as the CFW priorities for FY 06. Dinner will be provided at the Annual Planning Meeting.

C. Board Member Training

Commissioners Oldak, Johnson, and Parker and one of the newly appointed commissioners attended the June 24 training session for members and staff liaisons of the County's board, commission and committee members. The County Attorney's Office presented an interesting session on the Ethics Law and Open Meetings Act. The County Executive's Office will soon announce dates of future workshops. All members are strongly encouraged to attend these training sessions. The Ethics Law and Open Meetings Act training is mandatory for all commissioners to attend.

D. Executive Committee Meeting Date Changes

The July Executive Committee will be held on July 20 instead of July 13 because Commissioner Cornish and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather are out of town that

week. Ms. Cornish will be attending the Business and Professional Women Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 13-16, and Ms. Vaughan-Prather will be at the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) Conference in Miami Beach, Florida, July 13-17.

In August, the Executive Committee will meet on the 17th instead of the 10th because Ms. Vaughan-Prather is on vacation during the first 2 weeks of that month.

E. M-LAW Elections

The official slate of nominees to the Board of Directors for the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (M-LAW) was set forth with the following names. Representing organizations are: Janet Anderson (Delta Sigma Theta, Annapolis Alumnae Chapter); L. Tracy Brown (Women's Law Center of Maryland); Michael Cohen (MNADV); Patricia Cornish (BPW-Maryland); Donna Edwards (AFL-CIO); Elaine Franz (AAUW); Mary Klausner (Calvert County CFW); Marlene Leonard (National Council of Jewish Women of Maryland), Reggie Oldak, (CFW); Augustine Pounds (Women's Action Coalition of Prince George's County); Anita Riley (United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 27). Individuals on the ballot include: E. Fran Johnson, Linda Kalb, Verna Kushel, N. Sharon Leatherman, Ellen Mugmon, Joanne Saltzberg, and Jacqueline Scott.

Commissioner Osias moved that the entire slate as proposed by the M-LAW Nominating Committee be adopted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and unanimously adopted. Staff will fax the voted ballot back to M-LAW before the Friday, June 24 deadline.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. CERB Proposals

At the time of this meeting, there was nothing to report.

(Staff's Note: On June 23, Executive Director Vaughan-Prather received a call from the Executive's staff letting her know that the Council's MFP committee has completed its work on the CERB recommendations and that, of the two issues on which the CFW has expressed concern:

1. The attendance provision passed, as CFW had recommended
2. The sunset provision that the Commission opposed was not recommended by the MFP committee and that proposal is no longer under consideration.)

B. Equal Pay Commission

Letters from the CFW were sent to Governor Ehrlich supporting the nominations of Wendy Kahn, Tracy Brown and Holly Fechner for positions on the Maryland Equal Pay Commission. On-line applications for the three nominees were also completed. CFW received a letter from the Department of Labor acknowledging receipt of CFW's nominees.

However, the DOL is now looking for funding in the amount of \$16,000 to provide staff support to the Equal Pay Commission. Senator Sharon Grosfeld is working with the Senate leadership on this issue and will let CFW know if there is anything else we can do.

C. Focus Group for Maryland Women's Heritage Center

One June 7, Linda Shevitz, the Education Equity Coordinator for the Maryland State Department of Education, along with Jill Moss Greenberg, hosted a focus group of presidents of Commissions for Women in Maryland. The focus group was held at the CFW offices to discuss the Maryland Women's Heritage Center project.

Approximately 19 participants were expected to attend; however only 5 attended. The group discussed ideas for making the Heritage Center an evolving educational facility where outside groups could gather.

President Cornish and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather took part in the focus group. Ms. Vaughan-Prather talked about the concerns expressed by CFW commissioners regarding design plans for the center's entry. Also discussed was the concern that the center not become another venue that offers workshops for women, since there are many such places in Maryland that already provide this service. The Heritage Center, which will be located in Baltimore, will also house the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Committees to work on suggestions for the Heritage Center are being formed and commissioners are invited to submit their ideas and join the working committees.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Women's Expo

The CFW was invited to become an exhibitor at a 2005 Women's Expo taking place September 10 at the Montgomery County Soccerplex. Information that was sent about the Expo seems to indicate that it is geared more towards commercial businesses. The CFW decided not to participate.

B. Suburban Maryland Business and Professional Women (BPW)

The 2005 BPW Women of Achievement Banquet will be held October 6 and BPW is requesting that CFW again co-sponsor the event. The motion to co-sponsor this year's

banquet was moved by Commissioner Oldak, duly seconded by Commissioner Horan and unanimously passed. Last year, the CFW nominated the Counseling and Career Center Program Manager, Elma Rambo for the BPW Women of Achievement Award and Ms. Rambo and a number of local women from various organizations were honored as recipients.

C. State Budget Cuts

Copies of a press release from the Montgomery County Executive's Office and a Washington Post article was sent to commissioners concerning Governor Ehrlich's budget cuts eliminating \$7 million in funding for coverage of pregnant women and children classified as permanent legal residents for fewer than five years.

On June 21, the County Executive's Office issued the press release urging the Governor to reconsider his decision that would deny pregnant women and children in Maryland who desperately needed medical services and restore the \$1.5 million of state Medicaid dollars that would have affected 1,300 children and 300 pregnant women in Montgomery County.

Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather spoke to the County's Health Officer, Ulder Tillman about this issue and it was suggested that CFW send a letter to the Governor expressing concern about the budget cuts on women and children. Commissioner Finkelstein moved that CFW write a letter to Governor Ehrlich, urging that he restore the \$1.5 million to the state Medicaid budget for the provision of medical services to low income pregnant women and children. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horan and unanimously passed. Ms. Horan agreed to draft the letter.

D. Mikulski Research – Fibroids

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski has introduced legislation in the United States Senate that would double federal funding for uterine fibroid research and fund a public education campaign on the condition. Identical legislation is also being introduced by Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones in the U.S. House of Representatives. Commissioner Finkelstein moved that CFW send a letter of appreciation to Senator Mikulski thanking her for her efforts; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Oldak and passed unanimously. Staff will draft the letter.

IV. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will be attending the 36th annual NACW Convention on July 13-17, 2005 in Miami, Florida. The conference agenda was sent out by NACW, but additional information (e.g., resolutions, etc.) has not yet been distributed by NACW. President Cornish, was invited to run for the NACW Board of Directors, but has declined.

B. Staffing

In the FY 05 approved budget, CFW received funding to create a part-time position. The new position would have started out as a 30 hour per week Program Specialist to be shared between the Executive Director's office and the Counseling and Career Center, with 10 of those hours to be spent updating the Status of Women report. In January 2005, departments were notified by the Chief Administrative Office that the departmental budget could not be over-spent and filling the position was again deferred to be filled in the 2006 Fiscal Year.

Based on a number of transitions in the Counseling and Career Center, a decision was made to use the funding for the position to hire an additional counselor for the Center. The funds approved for the Status of Women report will be used to contract out with someone to help staff that project.

C. New Commissioner Appointments

The County Executive appointed the following persons to serve on the Commission for Women. These appointments are scheduled for confirmation by the County Council on June 28: Gloria Aparicio, Anne Kasper, Elizabeth Keyes, Fauzia Najm, and Martha Nguyen. Congratulations were extended to Commissioners Cornish who was reappointed to a 3 year term on the CFW. Orientation will be scheduled for the 5 new commissioners on June 29.

D. Contacting Staff

Commissioners are reminded of the following numbers when trying to reach the Executive Director's Office:

Judy Vaughan-Prather	240-777-8333
Tracy Stuger	240-777-8331
Paula Rodgers	240-777-8336
Executive Director's Main Office Line	240-777-8330

E. Strathmore Hall

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that she recently attended a County managers' meeting that was held at Strathmore Hall, and she had an opportunity to suggest that the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Strathmore consider holding a special concert by and for women during Women's History Month in March. The commissioners all agreed that it would be a great idea

F. Washington Area Women's Foundation

A representative from the Washington Area Women's Foundation invited CFW to attend a focus group on June 24. The Foundation is planning to establish a clearinghouse of services and information for low-income single female parents. The commissioners agreed that this was an important initiative and that Executive Director Vaughan-Prather should attend the focus group.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Technology and Girls (TAG)Smith

(1) Summer Computer Camp Program - To date, 29 applications for a scholarship to the 2005 Summer Computer Camp program have been received. CFW has funding to provide up to 32 scholarships. CFW is working with Montgomery College's Instructional Dean, Steve Cain to develop a training agreement with the college that may make it possible for CFW to have a guaranteed number of slots in each of the three computer camps and a reduced camp fee. However, the contract involves more details than originally thought and will not be ready for execution in time for this summer's scholarship program.

(2) Computer Camp Survey – Copies of the Computer Camp Survey Report with transmittal letters have been prepared and signed and will be mailed out to the County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer; County Councilmembers Leventhal, Perez, and Silverman; Dr. Steve Cain; the MCPS Task Force on Girls and Technology; the UMBC Center for Women and Information Technology; and the three computer camp teachers. Copies will also be sent to financial supporters of the scholarship program such as Discovery Communications, Lockheed Martin, CISCO and Suburban Maryland BPW.

B. IWin Montgomery Committee.....Horan

Commissioner Horan reported that the total donations received to date for the Know Your Rights Campaign is \$3,625! The Korean language brochures have been translated and an outside reviewer is now looking at them.

The Spanish translation was completed; however, it will have to be redone because the translation, which was conducted by a professional company, was found to be completely unsatisfactory. The translation service will not be paid for that work.

The IWin Committee is still considering targeting immigrant law firms to help pay for translation of the brochures into the other languages.

C. Policy and Legislation CommitteeOsias / Finkelstein

Commissioner Osias said that nothing on the state level has changed since last month's report.

Commissioner Johnson said that the Predatory Lending Legislation hearing date was changed from July 7 to July 6 and she would continue to keep the Commission apprised of the pending legislation.

Commissioner Grant said that the a forum is scheduled on June 23 in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on proposed changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Ms. Grant also noted that protection of the FMLA is very critical at this time because there is a lot of pressure on the Department of Labor to scale it back.

Commissioner Johnson reported that the settlement provisions of the Department of Justice's lawsuit brought against the tobacco industry will have an impact on women.

Commissioner Fechner said that everyone on Capitol Hill is waiting to see who is nominated to the Supreme Court if Justice William Rhenquist retires.

According to an article in the National Business and Professional Women newsletter, Congressman Christopher Van Hollen has not yet signed on as a co-sponsor to the reauthorization of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. Commissioner Osias will call the Congressman's legislative aide to inquire about the status of this.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

A. Domestic Violence Task Force

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather was invited to speak to the County Executive's staff concerning the Domestic Violence Task Force on June 23. In February 2004, former CFW president Dorothy Fait came before the CFW to seek its support for continuing the Task Force and making it a permanent body through legislation.

B. Road Runner's Take Back the Night Run

Commissioner Finkelstein announced that the "Take Back the Night" 5k run will be held on August 2, 2005 at 6 p.m. at the Olney Shopping Center. This annual event is held in conjunction with National Night Out, a campaign involving neighborhoods, businesses and law enforcement agencies to generate support for local anti-crime programs. Ms. Finkelstein said that the run was a fun event and volunteers were needed if anyone was interested.

VIII. ELECTION OF CFW PRESIDENT

Commissioners Deborah Horan and Reggie Oldak have submitted their names as candidates for the office of CFW President for 2005-2006, and ballot forms were distributed in the commissioner's packets. There were no nominations from the floor.

Commissioners cast their votes by secret paper ballot and Commissioner Horan was elected to serve as CFW President for the 2005-2006 year. Commissioner Grant noted the Commission was very fortunate to have two such talented women willing to lead the CFW into the next year. Ms. Cornish was thanked for her outstanding leadership over the past two years.

IX. INTERIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

According to CFW Bylaws, the election of the Vice President and Second President shall take place two months after the confirmation of the new commissioners which will be in September. In the interim, the following commissioners will serve as the CFW Executive Committee for the July 20 Executive Committee meeting: President Horan, 1st Vice President Parker, 2nd Vice President Oldak; IWin Committee Chair Cornish; TAG Committee Chair Smith and PAL Committee Chair Osias.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following dates were announced:

- June 29 – New Commissioner Orientation
- July 20 – Executive and TAG Committee Meetings
- July 27 – CFW Meeting
- August 17 – Executive Committee
- August 24 – CFW ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING
-

XI. THANK YOU AND FAREWELLS

Certificates of Appreciation from County Executive Douglas Duncan were presented to the following commissioners who completed their terms:

Commissioner Jodi Grant - in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated service on the Commission for Women (July 2002 to June 2005), serving on the Policy and Legislation Committee (Co-Chair October 2003-2005) and the Technology and Girls Committee.

Jodi Finkelstein - in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated service on the Commission for Women (July 2002 to June 2005), serving on the Policy and Legislation Committee (Co-Chair October 2003-2005) and on the Immigrant Women in Montgomery County Committee.

Carol Lynn Green - in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated service on the Commission for Women (July 2000 to June 2005), serving on the Policy and Legislation Committee and serving as Chair July 2000-September 2003.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather thanked the three commissioners who each brought their knowledge and expertise to the Commission for Women and for everything they have accomplished.

A special certificate of appreciation was presented to Commissioner Pat Cornish in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated service and countless hours and service as CFW President for 2003-2005. A Gina Designs lapel pin, depicting three women of diverse cultures with their arms outstretched, was presented as a gift to Ms. Cornish from the commissioners and staff.

Ms. Cornish said that she truly enjoyed serving as CFW President of such an amazing group of powerful women in the community.

Maryland Commission for Women representative, Barbara Heyman, who has been in attendance at CFW meetings for over the past few years, announced that this meeting was her last one as she was completing her two terms on the Maryland CFW. Ms. Heyman thanked the commissioners for letting her be a part of its monthly meetings.

IX. AJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**

CFW Action and Follow-up Items

- [] 1. Commissioners Osias, Oldak and Horan and President Cornish will attend the meeting with County Councilman George Leventhal scheduled for July 6. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather and Program Manager Elma Rambo will also attend.
- [] 2. The CFW Annual Planning Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 at 6:00 pm in the conference room. Commissioners are encouraged to think about projects to present as the CFW priorities for FY 06. Dinner will be provided at the Annual Planning Meeting.
- [] 3. The July Executive Committee will be held on July 20 and the August Executive Committee meeting will take place on August 17.
- [x] 4. Staff will fax the ballot of M-LAW Board of Director nominees back to M-LAW before the June 24th deadline.
- [] 5. Committees to work on suggestions for the Maryland Women's Heritage Center are being formed and commissioners are invited to submit their ideas and join the working committees. Contact Linda Shevitz, the Education Equity Coordinator for the Maryland State Department of Education, for further information.
- [] 6. The CFW will again serve as a co-sponsor the BPW Women of Achievement Banquet to be held this year on October 6, 2005.
- [x] 7. Commissioner Horan will draft a letter from the CFW to Governor Ehrlich, urging that he restore the \$1.5 million to the state Medicaid budget for the provision of medical services to low income pregnant women and children.
- [] 8. Staff will draft a letter to Senator Barbara Mikulski who has introduced legislation in the United States Senate that would double federal funding for uterine fibroid research and fund a public education campaign on the condition.
- [] 9. Commissioner Osias will call Congressman Christopher Van Hollen's legislative aide to inquire about the status of his signing on to the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.
- [] 10. The Montgomery County Road Runners "Take Back the Night" 5k run will be held on August 2, 2005 at 6 p.m. at the Olney Shopping Center. Volunteers are needed.
- [] 11. Please note your calendars for the following dates:
 - June 29 – New Commissioner Orientation
 - July 20 – Executive (7 pm) and TAG Committee Meetings (5:30 pm)
 - July 27 – CFW Meeting (7 pm)
 - August 17 – Executive Committee (7 pm)
 - August 24 – CFW ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING (6 pm)